

Message Text

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ACTION IO-13

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-15 AF-08 ARA-10 EA-09 EUR-12 /119 W

----- 098817

R 022349Z DEC 76

FM USMISSION USUN NY

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1366

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

UNCLAS USUN 5855

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, UNGA, EG, IS, JO, SY

SUBJECT: US VOTE EXPLANATION IN SPC ON ISRAELI

PRACTICES ITEM

1. FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF US VOTE EXPLANATION MADE BY
AMB. ALBERT W. SHERER, JR. ON RESOLUTION ADOPTED
DECEMBER 2 IN GA SPECIAL POLITICAL COMMITTEE ON
ISRAELI PRACTICES IN OCCUPIED TERRITORIES.

2. BEGIN TEXT:

QUOTE

WE HAVE VOTED AGAINST RESOLUTION A/SPC/31/L.11
(THE OMNIBUS RESOLUTION) BECAUSE WE BELIEVE THAT THE
EXTENSIVE LIST OF ALLEGATIONS CONTAINED THEREIN ARE
SUFFICIENTLY SERIOUS THAT THEY DESERVE MORE CAREFUL AND
BALANCED INVESTIGATION AND CERTAINLY MORE PRECISE DEFINITION
THAN IS EVIDENT EITHER IN THE COMMITTEE'S REPORT
OR IN THIS RESOLUTION. SUCH SIMPLISTIC APPROACHES TO
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COMPLEX ISSUES DEVALUE THE WORK OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY.

AT THE SAME TIME, WE HAVE SUPPORTED RESOLUTION L.10, WHICH REITERATES THE FUNDAMENTAL AND IMPORTANT POINT THAT THE FOURTH GENEVA CONVENTION APPLIES TO THE OCCUPIED TERRITORIES. THIS IS A POSITION LONG HELD BY THE UNITED STATES.

THE UNITED STATES HAS VOTED AGAINST RESOLUTION L.9 WHICH DEALS WITH THE QUESTION OF ISRAELI CIVILIAN SETTLEMENTS IN THE OCCUPIED ARAB TERRITORIES. THE VIEWS OF MY GOVERNMENT ON THIS MATTER HAVE BEEN SET FORTH IN CONSIDERABLE DETAIL ON MANY PREVIOUS OCCASIONS, MOST RECENTLY IN THE SECURITY COUNCIL ON NOVEMBER 11. WE DEMUR, IN PARTICULAR, ON ONE VITAL POINT IN THIS RESOLUTION, AND THAT IS THE DEMAND THAT ISRAEL RESCIND MEASURES TAKEN IN ALL THE OCCUPIED TERRITORIES. WE CONSIDER THIS SWEEPING INJUNCTION TO BE EXCESSIVE AND OUT OF PLACE IN ANY CONTEXT WHICH DOES NOT INCLUDE ALL ASPECTS OF A JUST AND LASTING PEACE IN THE AREA.

OUR NO VOTE IS INTENDED TO UNDERLINE THAT WE TAKE STRONG EXCEPTION TO THE MANNER IN WHICH THIS RESOLUTION CAME BEFORE THIS COMMITTEE. WITH ONE IMPORTANT EXCEPTION, IT SIMPLY TAKES THE RECENT SECURITY COUNCIL CONSENSUS STATEMENT AND ADDS TO IT THE ELEMENT WHICH WAS REMOVED IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE CONSENSUS. ITS SPONSORS THUS ASK THE ASSEMBLY TO REINTERPRET OR EXPAND ON THE COUNCIL'S STATEMENT. BEYOND THIS, HAVING JOINED IN A CONSENSUS STATEMENT WHICH EMERGED FROM DELIBERATIONS IN THE SECURITY COUNCIL, WE DO NOT -- AND WILL NOT -- FEEL OBLIGED AUTOMATICALLY TO SUPPORT SIMILAR EFFORTS ELSEWHERE, ESPECIALLY IN ANOTHER CONTEXT, OR FORUM, OR WHEN THE ITEM UNDER CONSIDERATION IS DIFFERENT OR HAS A DISTINCTIVE HISTORY AND PURPOSE.

WITH ALL DUE RESPECT, WE MUST OBSERVE THAT UNITED NATIONS DELIBERATIONS ARE NOT A GAME IN WHICH ONE SIDE GAINS VICTORIES BY RUNNING UP TALLIES OF CONDEMNATIONS OF THE OTHER. THE UNITED STATES FOR ITS PART WILL APPROACH DEBATES ON THE MIDDLE EAST WITH ONE PRINCIPAL CRITERION IN MIND: WILL THIS DEBATE OR THIS RESOLUTION

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CONTRIBUTE TO OVERALL EFFORTS TO ADVANCE THE CAUSE OF PEACE IN THE AREA? WE DO NOT BELIEVE THE PRESENT RESOLUTION PASSES THAT TEST.

FINALLY, MR. CHAIRMAN, I WISH TO EXPLAIN OUR ABSTENTION ON THE RESOLUTION L.12 WHICH DEALS WITH QUNEITRA. WE HAVE PREVIOUSLY STATED OUR VIEW WITH RESPECT TO THE SERIOUSNESS OF THE ALLEGATIONS UNDER CONSIDERATION.

IN OUR VIEW, HOWEVER, THE ISSUES INVOLVED IN THE WHOLE
QUESTION OF COMPENSATION ARE PROPERLY A MATTER FOR THE
NEGOTIATION OF A SETTLEMENT BETWEEN THE PARTIES, AND WE
DO NOT BELIEVE THEY SHOULD BE PREJUDGED BY THIS
COMMITTEE. FOR THIS REASON WE HAVE NOT BEEN ABLE TO
SUPPORT THE RESOLUTION.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: LAND SETTLEMENT, MEETING VOTING RECORDS, UNGA RESOLUTIONS, MILITARY OCCUPIED AREAS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 02 DEC 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976USUNN05855
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760447-1138
From: USUN NEW YORK
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19761277/aaaacoqp.tel
Line Count: 124
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION IO
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: wolfsd
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 26 MAY 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <26 MAY 2004 by hattaycs>; APPROVED <10 AUG 2004 by wolfsd>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: US VOTE EXPLANATION IN SPC ON ISRAELI PRACTICES ITEM
TAGS: PFOR, EG, IS, JO, SY, US, UNGA, (SHERER, ALBERT W)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006